

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7133
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 11241

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, EAID, EFIN, CG, BE
SUBJECT: JUNE 13-14 BRUSSELS MEETING ON ZAIRE

REF: A) BRUSSELS 11151 (NOTAL), B) BRUSSELS 11102 (NOTAL),
C) PARIS 17932 (NOTAL), D) STATE 142026 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEPUTY
CHEF DE CABINET ONKELINX GIVES US BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S
PRELIMINARY IDEAS ON STRUCTURE AND AGENDA FOR JUNE 13-14
BRUSSELS MEETING ON ZAIRE. ONKELINX SAID THAT BELGIAN
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PLANS MAY COME INTO SHARPER FOCUS FOLLOWING EITHER JUNE 9
GOB ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ATTENDED BY UN AMBASSADOR
(AND BRUSSELS MEETING CHAIRMAN) ANDRE ERNEMANN OR JUNE 12
MEETING IN BRUSSELS WITH THE IMF REPRESENTATIVES.
FOLLOWING ARE ONKELINX'S CHIEF POINTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ONKELINX SAID THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE JUNE 5 PARIS

MEETING ON ZAIRE, THE BELGIANS HAVE DECIDED TO ABANDON THE IDEA OF HAVING A FORMAL AGENDA AND INSTEAD WILL SEEK TO HAVE "MORE FLEXIBLE DISCUSSIONS" UNDER THE GENERAL GUIDANCE AND CONTROL OF THE CHAIRMAN, AMBASSADOR ERNEMANN. HE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET WILL OPEN MEETING ON JUNE 13, WHICH WILL BE HELD AT EGMONT PALACE, WITH A PRECIS OF BELGIAN VIEWS ON THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND THEN TURN OVER THE MEETING TO ERNEMANN, WHO WILL OUTLINE BRIEFLY TWO-DAY PROGRAM. MEETING THEN WILL BE TURNED OVER TO ZAIRIAN DELEGATION (UMBA, BESINGEMANA, OR BOKANA) FOR THE ZAIRIAN PRESENTATION ON THE MOBUTU PLAN, INCLUDING WHATEVER DOCUMENTATION ZAIRIANS CAN GET IN SHAPE IN TIME FOR THE MEETING.

3. ONKELINX SAID THAT THE IMF WILL THEN FOLLOW THE ZAIRE PRESENTATION AND BEGIN THE PROCESS OF "PUTTING THE SCREWS" TO THE GOZ ON ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THE IMF REPS TO SET OUT FOR THE ZAIRIANS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL IMF STABILIZATION PLAN, INCLUDING CONDITIONS FOR A STANDBY AGREEMENT. AFTER IMF WILL COME WORLD BANK PRESENTATION.

4. ONKELINX SAID THAT THE REST OF THE FORMAL BRUSSELS MEETING WILL BE TAKEN UP WITH DISCUSSION OF THE THREE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE TOTAL ZAIRE RECOVERY SCENARIO:
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A. ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT REFORM. ONKELINX SAID MEETING WOULD REVIEW CENTRAL BANK REFORMS, INCLUDING RESPONSIBILITIES OF IMF APPOINTED DIRECTOR, AS WELL AS PROPOSALS FOR INTERNATIONAL MANAGERS AND EXPERTS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, IN THE CUSTOMS SERVICE, AND IN OTHER SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTERPRISES.

B. THE IMF STABILIZATION PLAN. ONKELINX SAID FULL RANGE OF IMF-CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT AT THIS TIME.

C. THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF ZAIRE ("THE MOBUTU PLAN"). ONKELINX SAID FIRST ITEM WILL BE DISCUSSION OF ZAIRE'S SHORT-TERM ESSENTIAL IMPORTS AND ASSISTANCE NEEDS AS IDENTIFIED BY THE ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP AT THE JUNE 5 PARIS MEETING (REF C), INCLUDING MINIMUM QUANTITIES OF FUEL, FOOD, MEDICINES AND SPARE PARTS REQUIRED FOR NEXT THREE MONTHS AS WELL AS COSTS AND POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FINANCING. THEN THE MEETING COULD TURN TO "BRIEF" DISCUSSION OF ZAIRE'S LONGER TERM RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND REQUIREMENTS. ONKELINX SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT MUCH

USEFUL WORK IN THIS AREA AS GOZ'S MOBUTU PLAN DOCUMENT IS "NEITHER FINISHED NOR SATISFACTORY." MOREOVER, HE ADDED, SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE IMF NEGOTIATIONS IS REQUIRED BEFORE LONGER TERM REQUIREMENTS CAN PROPERLY BE ADDRESSED BY POSSIBLE DONORS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, ONKELINX SAID THAT HE DID NOT ENVISION THE FORMAL SETTING UP OF WORKING GROUPS. HOWEVER, IN THE CONTEXT OF BELGIUM'S FLEXIBLE FORMAT FOR THE TWO-DAY SESSION, HE SAID THAT CONFERENCE ROOMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSTITUTING AD HOC WORKING SESSIONS. IN ADDITION, EACH DELEGATION WILL HAVE ITS OWN OFFICE AT THE EGMONT PALACE AND DELEGATIONS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN THEIR OFFICES. TIME WILL
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BE SCHEDULED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

6. ONKELINX SAID DEVELOPMENT MINISTER OUTERS WILL HOST A DINNER FOR THE DELEGATIONS EVENING OF JUNE 13, WITH AN INFORMAL BUFFET LUNCH AT THE HILTON SCHEDULED SAME DAY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 11241

THERE WILL BE AN INFORMAL WORKING LUNCH AT THE EGMONT
PALACE JUNE 14, WITH SANDWICHES AVAILABLE IN THE EVENING
IF THE MEETING HAS TROUBLE BREAKING UP ON SCHEDULE.

7. WE WILL REPORT ANY CHANGES OR REFINEMENTS OF BELGIAN
PLANS AS THEY DEVELOP.

8. ZAIRIAN REPRESENTATION - ONKELINX SAID THAT BELGIANS
STILL DO NOT KNOW WHO WILL HEAD ZAIRIAN DELEGATION,
POSSIBLY FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA, BOKANA OR BISENGIMANA
(REF B). HE SAID THAT BOKANA AND HIS EXPERTS HAVE BEEN
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IN BRUSSELS WORKING AWAY ON THEIR DRAFT DOCUMENTS. BOKANA
HAS TOLD THE BELGIANS THAT HE IS TO BE CHIEF OF DELEGATION
AT THE MEETING. ONKELINX SAID THAT BISENGEMANA CAME TO
BRUSSELS ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON,
STYLED HIMSELF AS NEW MOBUTU PLAN COORDINATOR,
AND MET WITH BELGIAN OFFICIALS, BUT DID NOT SO MUCH AS
SAY HOW-DO-YOU-DO TO BOKANA. ONKELINX SAID THAT ZAIRIAN
AMBASSADOR INONGA TOLD HIM THAT BOKANA, UPSET BY
BISENGEMANA'S BEHAVIOR, AND WAS TOLD THAT HE (BOKANA)
WAS STILL CHIEF OF THE DELEGATION AND THAT BISENGEMANA'S
AUTHORITY WAS LIMITED TO TALKS IN WASHINGTON WITH IMF
AND WORLD BANK. ONKELINX SAID THAT BELGIUM WAS TREADING
CAREFULLY ON THIS PROBLEM WHICH AMBASSADOR RITWEEGER DE
MOOR HAS PASSED OFF AS "ZAIRE'S PROBLEM." CHAMBERS

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